

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you can appreciate the last two days have been extremely busy as we have worked to put in place all the arrangements needed to cover the ensuing period of school closure.

For most pupils this will be a period of working from home and your child's school will have let you know what they are expected to do, alongside providing resources to support this. Please encourage them to get into a 'school' routine at home and emphasise how important it will be for them to continue to learn so they are in a good position when their school re-opens. We will continue to signpost new resources, via school websites, as and when they become available. We will also continue to provide free school meals for those children who are eligible and working at home.

As required by the government, we are providing a service for the following pupils:

1. Children with a current Education Health Care Plan
2. Vulnerable children with a social worker
3. Children with a parent working in an essential service who cannot otherwise be looked after

The government's guidance is contained at: [Key Worker List](#)

[It is important to stress that this provision is a supervision service and the children attending will undertake similar work to that provided for children working at home. The service is only available for children in these groups whose parents cannot make other arrangements to have them looked after. The message from the government is 'children who can stay at home, should stay at home'.](#)

For children in Years 11 and 13, the closure possibly marks the end of their time in their school and hastily arranged leaving events have been undertaken in our schools. More formal events will be organised for them as soon as possible however so they get that so important rite of passage. The same will also apply to children in Year 6.

The government has [today published further details](#) of how it will replace GCSEs and A-levels this summer. Whilst the exact details are yet to be announced, teachers will be asked to provide evidence of performance, such as mock exams and non-exam assessment. This will be used by the exam boards along with contextual information, including Key Stage 2 SATS results to predict GCSEs and GCSEs to predict A levels, to produce a calculated grade for each subject studied. We understand that students will be given the opportunity to sit an exam in the autumn if they wish to appeal the grade. We believe that these grades will be issued at the end of July. Ofqual, the exams regulator, will ensure the national distribution of grades follows the pattern of recent years. Key Stage 2 SATs results are likely to be awarded on the basis of teacher assessment.

Over the period of closure we will keep in touch with children and families via school and trust websites so please do check them on a regular basis.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents and carers who have sent in messages of thanks and goodwill. As frontline workers, those of us who work in education understand fully why our services are needed at this time of crisis and are proud to be able to serve. Your support and encouragement certainly helps.

My thoughts are with all our children and families at this time and I wish you all the very best, until we can open our schools once again and get back to business as usual.

Take care,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Arlidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive